

Dopo il veglione o viceversa

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Title: Dopo il veglione o viceversa

Author: Roberto Bracco

Release Date: November 05, 2011 [EBook #37936]

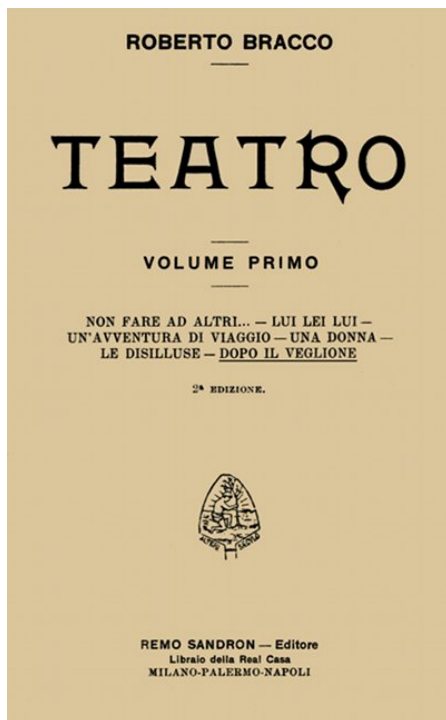
Language: Italian

Character set encoding: UTF-8

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ROBERTO BRACCO

TEATRO

VOLUME PRIMO

NON FARE AD ALTRI... — LUI LEI LUI —
UN'AVVENTURA DI VIAGGIO — UNA DONNA —
LE DISILLUSE — DOPO IL VEGLIONE

2ª EDIZIONE.

REMO SANDRON — Editore

Libraio della Real Casa
MILANO-PALERMO-NAPOLI

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Off. Tip. Sandron — 126 — I — 290312.

DOPO IL VEGLIONE

o

VICEVERSA

(Scherzo comico per *café-chantant*, musicato dal Maestro UMBERTO MAZZONE, scritto apposta per NICOLA MALDAGEA e AMELIA FARAONE, eseguito per la prima volta al *Salone Margherita di Napoli*, nel 1893).

[pg!354]

[pg!355]

PERSONAGGI:

LUI e LEI.

La scena rappresenta un elegante salottino intimo con un paravento.

[pg!356]

[pg!357]

SCENA UNICA.

LUI e LEI entrano.

Lei è vestita da uomo. Lui, «viceversa», è vestito da donna. E tutti e due portano il domino e la maschera.

Lui si burla di Lei, e Lei si burla di Lui.

Dal cappuccio di Lei scappano i riccioli della parrucca maschile; da quello di Lui scappano i riccioli della parrucca femminile.

Sicchè, Lui è convinto che Lei sia un uomo: Lei è convinta che Lui sia una donna.

Lei si avvanza conducendo Lui, graziosamente, per mano.

LEI

(imitando una voce maschile)

Siam giunti, mascherina....

Vi prego, favorite:

la casa è un po' piccina:

è casa da *garçon*.
Non è degna di voi,
lo so, ma compatite....
[pg!358]
chè, in fin dei conti, poi,
in due ci si sta ben.

LUI

(imitando una voce femminile)

Perchè vi confondete?
Non sono una regina...
Tutt'altro! Mi potete
trattare *sans façon*.
Io faccio, lo confesso,
o un po' la ballerina
o... quel che faccio adesso:
ecco, nè più nè men.

LEI

(tra sè)

Mi par che se la beva:
mi tratta da merlotto!
Non sa qual figlia... d'Eva
le si nasconde in me!

LUI

(tra sè)

Ch'io sia davvero donna
convinto è il giovinotto.
Non sa sotto la gonna
che pezzo d'uomo c'è.

LUI e LEI

(insieme — ognuno per conto suo)

Oh! Sesso, mio nemico!
Perchè non sei diverso?
[pg!359]
Dice quel motto antico:
«ciò che si lascia è perso.»

(Poi Lei, accennando a Lui, e Lui, accennando a Lei:)

E che farà
quando per forza
comparirà
da questa scorza
l'imprevedibile
che dentro sta?
Si morderà
le dieci dita
e imparerà
che nella vita
rompe le scatole
la realtà.

LEI

Toglietevi la maschera,
scopritevi il visino.
Dagli occhi l'indovino:
dev'essere divino!

LUI

Datemi il buon esempio,
gentil giovanottino.
È troppo sibillino
cotesto mascherino.

LEI

(con seduzione)

Almen fate ch'io guardi
un sol piedino vostro.

[pg!360]

LUI

(con timidità pudica)

No, no, no, no!... Più tardi...
Più tardi ve lo mostro.

LEI

Avete, tale e quale,
l'aria d'una novizia!

LUI

Ma pure, in generale,
è sempre l'uom che inizia!

LEI

E allora, o dolce incognita,
sta ben: vi servirò.

(Voltando le spalle e preparandosi a togliersi la maschera — tra sè:)

Ho quasi quasi scrupolo
di aver tardato un po'.

LUI

Sbrigatevi! Sbrigatevi!

LEI

Frenate l'ansietà.

LUI

(fingendo un accento di ansia infrenabile)

Non posso.... Il cor mi palpita....

[pg!361]

LEI

(buttando via il mascherino e sbottonando il domino, appare vestita da uomo, in frak e cravatta bianca: ma le forme del corpo ed il viso rivelano la perfetta muliebrità.)

Son donna: eccomi qua!

LUI

(tra sè)

Oh che fortuna!

(a lei)

Donna?

LEI

Ma sì! Donna! Donnissima!

LUI

(tra sè, tripudiante)

Non sa sotto la gonna
che pezzo d'uomo c'è!

(a lei)

Ne siete ben sicura?

LEI

O bella!... Sicurissima!

[pg!362]

LUI

(fra sè:)

Graziosa è l'avventura!

(a lei, ostentando incredulità)

Donna!?...

LEI

Credete a me.

LUI

(tra sè:)

In questa trappola
che lei parò,
lei stessa capita,
e uscir non può.
L'ora propizia
attender vo'
ed in questi abiti

resto perciò.
 Funger da femmina
 non vorrei più,
 ma... è triste l'epoca:
 l'uomo... sta giù.

LEI

(tra sè:)

Si agita! Brontola!
 Ci spera ancor?

(Indicando con un dito il proprio viso)

[pg!363]
 Han forse gli uomini
 il mio color?...
 Se dall'equivoco
 non vengo fuor,
 lei non rinunzia
 al sogno d'or.

(accennando al frak e ai calzoni)

Queste visibili
 maschie virtù,
 per non più illuderla,
 butterò giù.

(Corre in gran fretta dietro il paravento.)

LUI

E dite: m'è concesso
 saper che fate, adesso?

LEI

(senza mostrarsi)

Io voglio del mio sesso
riprendere possesso.

LUI

Sì, presto, presto, presto!

LEI

Mi svesto...

LUI

(fa un movimento di contentezza.)

[pg!364]

LEI

... e mi rivesto.

LUI

Se vengo, vi molesto?

LEI

(energicamente)

Restate lì.

LUI

(rassegnato)

Ci resto.

*(Lui, or drizzandosi sulla punta dei piedi, ora guardando tra le connesure del par-
avento, ora salendo sopra una seggiola, assiste alla toletta di Lei, e si frega le mani,
ammira, si entusiasma, s'inebria. Intanto, Lei, svestendosi, getta di qua dal par-
avento il parrucchino, il frak, il panciotto, la camicia, i calzoni, che Lui raccoglie,
osserva, esamina.)*

LEI

(comparisce in abito molto femminile)

Sono pronta, amica mia.

LUI

Santi numi, com'è bella!

[pg!365]

LEI

E vi par che un uomo io sia?

LUI

Non è faccia d'uomo quella!

LEI

(pavoneggiandosi, con le mani nei fianchi)

Osservate il corpicino....

LUI

Oh! lo vedo ch'è un gioiello.

LEI

Osservatemi il piedino....

LUI

Oh! non è piè d'uomo, quello!

LEI

Perdonate, dunque, cara,
questo scherzo: è carnevale....

LUI

(dimenticando di dover sembrar donna)

Vi perdonerò se avara
non sarete voi con me....

[pg!366]

LEI

Che volete? Non comprendo.

LUI

Un bacino.... Non fa male!

LEI

(stringendosi nelle spalle)

Ve lo do.

(per cortesia lo bacia, in fretta, sul mento.)

LUI

Io ve lo rendo.

(la bacia sulla guancia.)

LEI

Non c'è sugo....

LUI

Sì che c'è!

(e tenta di abbracciarla.)

LEI

Ma, signora! Che vi piglia?

LUI

(impappinandosi, cerca di giustificarsi)

Mi sembrate... una mia zia...

[pg!367]

LEI

In che cosa mi somiglia?!

LUI

(abbracciandola forte)

Una vera simmetria!

LEI

Basta!... basta!... Non stringete....

LUI

Non la vedo da tanti anni!...

LEI

Ma, in sostanza, voi... chi siete?

LUI

(confuso)

Io?... Non sono... nei miei panni!...

(Corre, alla sua volta, dietro il paravento, portando seco gli abiti d'uomo che Lei indossava.)

LEI

E dite: m'è concesso
saper che fate, adesso?

[pg!368]

LUI

Io voglio del mio sesso
riprendere possesso.

LEI

(meravigliata)

E che vuol dire questo?!

LUI

Mi svesto... e mi rivesto...

LEI

Se vengo, vi molesto?

LUI

(con entusiasmo)

Venite pur....

LEI

(diffidente)

No!... Resto.

(Ricomincia la mimica. Lei, come ha fatto Lui, punta dalla curiosità, cerca di vedere quel che avviene dietro il paravento; ed osserva, inquieta, la roba che Lui, svestendosi, le fa piovere addosso, cioè il domino, il mascherino, la parrucca, le imbottiture con cui aveva improvvisate le forme di donna.

[pg!369]

Finalmente, vengono giù la gonna e la sottana. Lei, sempre più curiosa, sale sopra la seggiola, vede... e dà un grido quasi di spavento. Quindi scende precipitosamente, e, indignata, aspetta.)

LUI

(compare, pavoneggiandosi, vestito degli abiti maschili di Lei, che gli vanno male; e, poichè Lei ha un gesto d'ira e di sdegno, le si ginocchia ai piedi.)

LEI

Voi, dunque, siete un uomo?!
Se non uscite subito,
chiamo la polizia!

LUI

(umilmente)

Sì... forse sono un uomo;
ma vi prego di credere
... che non è colpa mia.

(A poco a poco, Lei s'intenerisce e gli apre le braccia.)

LEI

Sarai mio prigioniero
insino al far del giorno.
Del mondo, ch'è ciarliero,
non me ne importa un corno...
[pg!370]
Nella prigione oscura
io ti giudicherò,
ma non aver paura:
per te clemenza avrò!

LUI

Sarò tuo prigioniero
insino al far del giorno.
Del mondo, ch'è ciarliero,
non me ne importa un corno.
Io non avrò paura,
e a te mi affiderò
in questa mia cattura,
senza dir mai di no.

LEI e LUI

(insieme)

Non so chi sei, che fai,
ma già ti voglio ben
e so che m'amerai...
fino a domani almen.
Tra poco, o belle o brutte,
in quella oscurità,

ci sveleremo tutte
le generalità.
Ahimè, soltanto al buio
non si nasconde niente.
Può il buio, immantinente,
scoprir... la verità.

(Qui, cala la tela, tardi ma in tempo.)

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